

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KS, TS
SUBJECT: ROK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS TUNISIA

1. REPUBLIC OF KOREA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, HEADED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DR. IL KWEN CHUNG, ARRIVED IN TUNIS ON JANUARY 21 FOR THREE-DAY GOODWILL VISIT. IN AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT CHUNG STATED THAT VISIT OFFICERED OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLES OF TUNISIA AND KOREA AND TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF TWO COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT VISIT ALSO OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN KREA AND TUNISIA. CHUNG CONTINUED THAT HE WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS STAY IN TUNISIA TO EXPLAIN HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO KOREAS.

2. IN COURSE OF VISIT CHUNG AND PARTY CALLED ON VICE PRESIDENT OF TUNISIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BELHADJ AMMAR, WITH WHOM HE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A KOREAN-TUNISIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN FREIDNDSHIP ASSOCIATION. CHUNG PARTY ALSO CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA,
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FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS BELHADJ AMOR. TUNISIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MOKADDEM HOSTED DINNER IN KOREANS' HONOR.

3. ON JANUARY 25 OFFICIAL GOT DAILY LA PRESSE PRINTED LONG INTERVIEW WITH CHUNG IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN KOREAN POLITICAL LIFE AND

ROK EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO LIKENED TUNISIA TO ROK, STATEING THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHARED SIMILAR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VIEWS. ON REUNIFICATION ISSUE, HE CHARGED THAT NORTH KOREA ONLY PRETENDS TO WANT PEACEFUL UNIFICATION AND THAT ITS REAL OBJECTIVES ARE TO FIND PRETEXT FOR INVASION OF SOUTH.

4. COMMENT: CHUNG VISIT HAS RECEIVED "CORRECT" BUT HARDLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN TUNISIAN MEDIA. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC MENTION OF ITEMS OF SUBSTANCE WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT WE SUSPECT CHANG TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DETAIL ROK VIEWS ON RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND TO EXPRESS KOREAN APPRECIATION FOR TUNISIAN "UNDERSTANDING" ON ISSUE IN UN AND ELSEWHERE. CHUNG INVITED HIS TUNISIAN COUNTERPART TO VISIT SEOUL, BUT NO REFERENCE WAS MADE AS TO IF OR WHEN HE MIGHT ACCEPT. ALTHOUGH ALL APPROPRIATE HONORS WERE GIVEN DR. CHUNG AND PARTY, WE HAVE IMPRESSION VISIT WAS ONE WHICH WAS OF MORE INTEREST TO SEOUL THAN TO TUNIS. MULCAHY

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